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GLENN PATENT GROUP
3475 EDISON WAY, SUITE L
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

EXAMINER

CHOW, MING

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art does not teach registering the second device and activating an alarm while the first device is activated by the signal.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 19-21, 24, 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin (US: 6630883), and in view of Neustein (US: 6418305).

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For claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 19, 31, Amin et al teach on item 10 Fig. 2 message-indicating device. Amin et al teach on column 1 line 44-47 registering the message-indicating device a message notification can be forwarded.

Amin et al teach on column 1 line 42-45 receiving a message notification indicating a message, such as an e-mail, a voice-mail, or a facsimile, is stored within the subscriber's mailbox. Amin et al teach on item 19 Fig. 2 telephone, item 104 Fig. 2 computer, and column 5 line 66-67 facsimile machine (claimed "a communication device associated with the user").

Amin et al teach on column 3 line 45-52 the message-indicating device can be a IS-136 based cellular telephone, a cordless telephone, or a wireless pager. Amin et al teach on column 1 line 50-55 message notification is forwarded to the wireless message-indication device (reads on claimed "initiating a first wireless signal").

Amin et al teach on item 10 Fig. 2 message-indicating device that is a separate device from the communication device.

Amin et al failed to teach "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user". However, Neustein teaches on column 14 line 10, "this feature automatically sets a 'voice message' indicator at the pager apparatus. It is subsequently turned off by the transmitting station after the voice message has been retrieved (reads on claimed "acknowledgement of receipt of said communication") by calling the central station". The "turn off" of Neustein is the claimed "deactivating".

Regarding claims 2, 14, Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 1 above failed to teach initiating a second wireless signal to said device; wherein in response to said second

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signal said indicator deactivates. However, Neustein teaches on column 14 line 10, “this feature automatically sets a ‘voice message’ indicator at the pager apparatus. It is subsequently turned off by the transmitting station after the voice message has been retrieved by calling the central station”. The “turn off” of Neustein is the claimed “deactivate”. It is inherent that the transmitting station must initiate a (claimed “second”) wireless signal to the pager (claimed “device”) to turn off the indicator. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al in view of Neustein to have the initiating a second wireless signal to said device; wherein in response to said second signal said indicator deactivates as taught by Neustein such that the modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein would be able to support the initiating a second wireless signal to said device; wherein in response to said second signal said indicator deactivates to the system users.

Regarding claims 3, 15, the modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 2 above failed to teach second wireless signal is initiated after the user accesses said first communication. However, Neustein teaches on column 14 line 10 “this feature automatically sets a ‘voice message’ indicator at the pager apparatus. It is subsequently turned off by the transmitting station after the voice message has been retrieved by calling the central station”. The “voice message” of Neustein is the claimed “first communication”. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al, Neustein to have the second wireless signal is initiated after the user accesses said first communication as taught by Neustein such that the modified system of Amin et al, Neustein would be able to

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support the second wireless signal is initiated after the user accesses said first communication to the system users.

Regarding claim 5, Amin et al teach on column 9 line 67 to column 10 line 1-2, and column 10 line 34-35 the registration button is pressed by the user and the mobile ID, ESN, and land-line number uniquely identify the mobile station (reads on claimed “types of communication”).

Regarding claims 13, 17, 20 and 21, all rejections as stated in claim 1 above apply.

Amin et al teach on column 1 line 42-45 receiving a message notification indicating a message, such as an e-mail, a voice-mail, or a facsimile, is stored within the subscriber’s mailbox. Amin et al teach on item 19 Fig. 2 telephone, item 104 Fig. 2 computer, and column 5 line 66-67 facsimile machine (claimed “a communication device associated with the user”).

Amin et al teach on column 3 line 45-52 the message-indicating device can be a IS-136 based cellular telephone, a cordless telephone, or a wireless pager. Amin et al teach on column 1 line 50-55 message notification is forwarded to the wireless message-indication device (reads on claimed “initiating a first wireless signal”).

Amin et al teach on item 10 Fig. 2 message-indicating device that is a separate device from the communication device.

The “message notification” as taught by Amin et al is the claimed “alert”.

Amin et al failed to teach “deactivate in response to a second signal”. However, Neustein teaches on column 14 line 10 “this feature automatically sets a ‘voice message’ indicator at the

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pager apparatus. It is subsequently turned off by the transmitting station after the voice message has been retrieved by calling the central station". The "turned off" of Neustein is the claimed "deactivate". It is inherent that the transmitting station must initiate a (claimed "second") wireless signal to the pager (claimed "device") to turn off the indicator.

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al in view of Neustein to have the after said providing, automatically initiating a second electronic signal to said first message-waiting device, wherein said second electronic signal is configured to deactivate said indicator as taught by Neustein such that the modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein would be able to support the after said providing, automatically initiating a second electronic signal to said first message-waiting device, wherein said second electronic signal is configured to deactivate said indicator to the system users.

Regarding claim 24, Amin et al teach on column 5 line 30-32 a display to display the notification.

3. Claims 4, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Neustein and further in view of Schull et al (US: 5363431). Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 1 above failed to teach indicator deactivates in response to manipulation of the device by the user. However, Schull et al teach on column 5 line 66 "a subscriber location after retrieving any waiting message can then activate the button and deactivate the indicator". The "activate the button" of Schull is the claimed "manipulation". It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to

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modify Amin et al in view of Neustein to have the indicator deactivates in response to manipulation of the device by the user as taught by Schull et al such that the modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein would be able to support the indicator deactivates in response to manipulation of the device by the user to the system users.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Neustein and further in view of Houggy et al (US: 5838226). Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 1 above failed to teach registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and initiating said first signal to said second device when said first signal is initiated to said first device. However, Houggy et al teach on column 38 line 36 “transmitting the first signal with the first device to each of the second devices at the same time”. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al in view of Neustein to have the registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and initiating said first signal to said second device when said first signal is initiated to said first device as taught by Houggy et al such that the modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein would be able to support the registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and initiating said first signal to said second device when said first signal is initiated to said first device to the system users.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Neustein and further in view of Homan et al (US: 6317485). Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 1 above failed to teach registering a second

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message-indicating device for the user; and initiating said first signal to said second device when notification of receipt of a second communication directed to the user is received, but not when said notification of said first communication is received. However, Homan et al teach on column 8 line 12 “the message store provider provides the subscriber with a mechanism to identify which types of messages should trigger notification”. The types of messages that do not trigger notification of Homan is the claimed “first communication”. The types of messages that do trigger notification of Homan is the claimed “second communication”. The “notification” of Homan is the claimed “first signal”. Homan et al also teach on column 7 line 11 “additional sub-menu choices corresponding to the available notify choices: paging notify, outcall notify, e-mail notify, lamp notify, and stutter tone notify”. The device of receiving notification of Homan is the claimed “second message-indicating device”. It is inherent that the second message-indicating device must be registered for receiving the notification. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al in view of Neustein to have the registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and initiating said first signal to said second device when notification of receipt of a second communication directed to the user is received, but not when said notification of said first communication is received as taught by Homan et al such that the modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein would be able to support the registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and initiating said first signal to said second device when notification of receipt of a second communication directed to the user is received, but not when said notification of said first communication is received to the system users.

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6. Claims 22, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al as applied to claim 20 above, and in view of Neustein, Snyder (US: 5588038).

The modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 20 above failed to teach “a switch configured to issue said second signal in response to user manipulation”.

However, Snyder teaches on column 4 line 5-13 a pager with a switch to issue a second signal.

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al, Neustein to have the “a switch configured to issue said second signal in response to user manipulation” as taught by Snyder such that the modified system of Amin et al, Neustein would be able to support the switch to issue a second signal to the system users.

7. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al as applied to claim 20 above, and in view of Neustein, Swistock (US: 6389115).

The modified system of Amin et al in view of Neustein as stated in claim 20 above failed to teach “said indicator is an audible indicator”. However, Swistock teaches on column 4 line 2-5 a sound notification on a cell phone to indicate receipt of a voice mail.

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al, Neustein to have the “said indicator is an audible indicator” as taught by Swistock such that the modified system of Amin et al, Neustein would be able to support the audible indicator to the system users.

8. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al as applied to claim 31 above, and in view of Sundhar (US: 6201858).

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Amin et al failed to teach “a second communication.....wherein said alarm.....wireless signal”. However, Sundhar teaches on column 1 line 41-43 an indication is sent to all phones (reads on claimed “second device”).

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al to have the “a second communication.....wherein said alarm.....wireless signal” as taught by Sundhar such that the modified system of Amin et al would be able to support the first signal to activate both first and second device to the system users.

9. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al as applied to claim 31 above, and in view of Amin (US: 6014559; hereafter Amin-559).

Amin et al failed to teach “a second.....wherein said.....wireless signal”. However, Amin-559 teaches on column 7 line 9-12 different notification messages are sent to different MINs. In other words, the first signal for the first notification message does not activate the second device.

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Amin et al to have the “a second.....wherein said.....wireless signal” as taught by Amin-559 such that the modified system of Amin et al would be able to support the first signal for first notification does not activate the second device to the system users.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed on 9/21/04 have been fully considered but they were not persuasive.

- i) Applicant argues, on page 2, regarding USC 112 rejections to claims 17, 18. Applicant's arguments were not responsive to the rejections by not specifically answering how the claims should be interpreted. Instead, Applicant directs the Examiner to pages 3-4 and pages 9-10 of the specifications for clarifications of the limitation. After consulting the referenced specifications, the Examiner believes the limitation should be read as "activation in response to receipt of one of multiple types of communications" but NOT "registering in response to receipt of one of multiple types of communications".
- ii) Applicant argues, on pages 3-23, regarding new amendments. New grounds of rejections necessitated by the amendments have been stated above.

Conclusion

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Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to the examiner Ming Chow whose telephone number is (703) 305-4817. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached on (703) 305-4895. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be mailed to:

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Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to Central FAX Number 703-872-9306.

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2645

Ming Chow



FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600